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Agenda item 40 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Malawi, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname: draft resolution

International assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly that emphasize and acknowledge the importance of international, bilateral and multilateral economic, financial and technical support, cooperation and assistance given by the United Nations system, the international community and non-governmental organizations, which provide a framework for the provision of aid to the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[1] in support of national efforts to make the region a zone of peace, freedom, democracy and development,

Noting that the Central American countries have achieved significant progress towards the consolidation of democracy and good governance, the strengthening of civilian Governments, respect for human rights and the rule of law, all as a tool for promoting sustainable development and regional integration, reflecting the desire of the Central American peoples to live and prosper in a climate of peace, solidarity and social justice,

Stressing the importance of the commitments, and their implementation, as undertaken by the regional summits and ministerial meetings, in particular those areas included in the programme initiatives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America in the political, economic, social and ecological fields, which allow a progressive improvement in the quality of life for the people of the region,

[1] See A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I.

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Noting that the various natural phenomena which have affected the region are one of the factors that have put at risk the biodiversity of Central America,

Emphasizing that the progress made in complying with the commitments established in the programme of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America creates the necessary conditions for implementing the policies for reducing the vulnerability of the region to natural disasters,

Noting that the framework of the Puebla-Panama Plan includes the Mesoamerican Initiative for the Prevention and Mitigation of Natural Disasters, as well as others that promote the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, and encompasses the Strategy for the Transformation and Modernization of Central America in the Twenty-first Century, presented during the Regional Consultative Group meeting, held in Madrid on 8 and 9 March 2001, and the Strategy for the South-Southeast of Mexico,

Noting the adoption in 2001 of the Regional Mechanism of Coordination of Mutual Assistance in Case of Disasters, as well as the successful work of the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America and, in particular, its mandate to hold the Mitch +5 Regional Forum, and the Regional Programme for Risk Management in Central America of the Coordination Centre and the United Nations Development Programme,

Welcoming the adoption of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Central America, which should result in the conclusion of future agreements strengthening the San José Dialogue process and expanding it to, inter alia, economic areas, migration and the campaign against international terrorism,

Recognizing the progress made in the elimination of anti-personnel mines from Central American territory as well as the need to rehabilitate and reintegrate mine victims in their communities in order to restore normal conditions for the full development of the region,

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Notes* the significant reduction in the last two years of the non-reimbursable international assistance and cooperation extended to the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Supports* the decision of the Central American Governments to promote in a harmonious and balanced way the sustained economic, social, cultural, environmental and political development of its member States and the development of the region as a whole through programmes which help to consolidate democracy and resolve social inequalities and extreme poverty;

4. *Reiterates* the importance of supporting and strengthening the efforts of the Central American countries in the implementation of the Regional Mechanism of Coordination of Mutual Assistance in Case of Disasters and the Regional Plan for Disaster Reduction as well as the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America[3] and, in particular, of

[2] A/58/286.

[3] See ibid.

taking measures for the prevention and mitigation of damage, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups and sectors;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and all States, international financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue providing the support needed to attain the objectives of the programme for the sustainable development of Central America, including those which are being pursued within the framework of the Quinquennium for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Natural Disasters in Central America;

6. *Notes with appreciation* the revision of the subregional cooperation programme in Central America of the United Nations Development Programme, launched in 1996, and of the national programmes of other United Nations agencies and other humanitarian agencies on the basis of the priorities established in the regional development strategy entitled "Strategy for the transformation and modernization of Central America", contained in the initiatives of the Puebla-Panama Plan;

7. *Encourages* the Governments and disaster-related organizations of Central America to continue implementing the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in order to reduce the vulnerability to hazards, and urges the international community to contribute to these efforts, including, as appropriate, through cooperation and technical assistance;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the renewal, in December 2002, of the commitment by bilateral and the multilateral development organizations to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, as one of the pillars for sustainable development comprising the conservation of natural resources, economic competitiveness and efforts to alleviate poverty, which is being developed with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme's own funds, the Global Environment Facility through the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the United States Agency for International Development;

9. *Recognizes* the efforts and achievements relating to mine clearance in Central America, and calls upon the relevant organs of the United Nations system, the Organization of American States, as well as the international community, to continue providing the material, technical and financial support needed by the Central American Governments to complete mine-clearance, mine-awareness and victim assistance activities in the region, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction;[4]

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution as part of a consolidated report under the item entitled "The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

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[4] See CD/1478.